



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SIX DEFENDANTS ARRESTED ON CHARGES OF DISTRIBUTING CRACK COCAINE

Anchorage, Alaska – United States Attorney Nelson P. Cohen announced that on November 13 and 14, 2007, Anchorage residents Lonnie White, James Butler, Sean Sullivan, Mutazz Chenery, and Ronald Fisher were indicted separately by a federal grand jury in Anchorage on charges relating to the distribution and possession of crack cocaine. Anchorage resident Richie Cuevas was charged by criminal complaint on November 20, 2007, on related charges.

A five-count indictment named Lonnie White, age 27, of 624 North Bliss in Anchorage, as the sole defendant.

A five-count indictment named James Butler, age 22, of 4521 Parsons Avenue in Anchorage, as the sole defendant.

A four-count indictment named Sean Sullivan, age 29, of 104 Muldoon Road in Anchorage, as the sole defendant.

A three-count indictment named Mutazz Chenery, age 28, of 7230 Bearfoot Drive in Anchorage, as the sole defendant.

A four-count indictment named Ronald Fisher, age 32, of 3410 Meadowbrook Drive in Anchorage, as the sole defendant.

A three-count indictment named Richie Cuevas, age 25, of, 2929 Sunflower in Anchorage, as the sole defendant.

According to the indictments and complaint, White sold crack cocaine on five separate occasions. In one instance, White sold 50 grams or more of crack cocaine. In three instances, White sold 5 grams or more of crack cocaine. And in another instance, White sold crack cocaine. Butler sold crack cocaine on five separate occasions. In one instance, Butler sold 50 grams or more of crack cocaine. The other four times, Butler sold 5 grams or more of crack cocaine. Sullivan possessed with the intent to distribute 50 grams or more of crack cocaine and 80 grams of cocaine. On two occasions, Sullivan sold 5 grams or more of crack cocaine. In addition, Sullivan knowingly and intentionally attempted to distribute 50 grams or more of crack cocaine. Chenery sold crack cocaine on three occasions, all being 5 grams or more. Fisher sold crack cocaine on four occasions, all being a mixture and substance containing a detectable

amount of cocaine base. Finally, Cuevas sold crack cocaine on three occasions, all being 5 grams or more.

Assistant United States Attorney Frank V. Russo, Special Assistant United States Attorney Christine M. Thoreson, and Special Assistant United States Attorney Erin E. White who presented the cases to the grand jury, indicated that for White, Butler, and Sullivan the law provides for a maximum sentence of life in prison, with a mandatory minimum of ten years in prison, a fine of \$4,000,000, or both. For Chenery and Cuevas, the law provides for a maximum of 40 years in prison, with a mandatory minimum of five years in prison, a fine of \$2,000,000, or both. Finally for Fisher, the law provides for a maximum of 20 years in prison, a \$1,000,000 fine, or both.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation Safe Streets Task Force, comprised of Anchorage police officers and FBI agents, conducted the investigation leading to the indictments and complaint in these cases. SAUSA Thoreson and SAUSA White are the two prosecutors in the U.S. Attorney's Office who are funded by the Municipality of Anchorage for the purpose of prosecuting gang-related and violent crime cases.

Indictments and complaints contain only charges and are not evidence of guilt. A defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial at which the government must prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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